

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2560

Introduced by Assembly Member Bonilla

February 21, 2014

An act to amend Section 44252 of the Education Code, relating to teacher credentialing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2560, as introduced, Bonilla. Teacher credentialing: renewal: child abuse reporting.

Existing law requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to establish standards and procedures for the initial issuance and renewal of teaching credentials.

Existing law, the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act, requires a mandated reporter, as defined to include a teacher, to report whenever he or she, in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment, has knowledge of or observes a child whom the mandated reporter knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect.

This bill would require the commission, as part of its standards and procedures for renewal of teaching credentials, to require an applicant who renews his or her credential online to read and attest by an electronic signature a statement that the applicant understands the duties imposed on a teacher by the act, as provided. The bill would also make nonsubstantive changes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 44252 of the Education Code is amended to read:

44252. (a) (1) The commission shall establish standards and procedures for the initial issuance and renewal of credentials.

(2) *The commission shall require an applicant who renews his or her credential online, as part of the renewal process, to read and attest by electronic signature a statement that the applicant for renewal understands the duties imposed on a teacher pursuant to the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (Article. 2.5 (commencing with Section 11164) of Chapter 2 of Title 1 of Part 4 of the Penal Code), including, but not limited to, the duty of a teacher to report to any police department, sheriff's department, county probation department authorized to receive reports, or county welfare department, whenever he or she, in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment, has knowledge of or observes a child whom the teacher knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect.*

(b) The commission shall not issue initially a credential, permit, certificate, or renewal of an emergency credential to a person to serve in the public schools unless the person has demonstrated proficiency in basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills in the English language as provided in Section 44252.5 or Section 44252.7. The commission shall exempt the following persons from the basic skills proficiency test requirement:

(1) A person credentialed solely for the purpose of teaching adults in an apprenticeship program.

(2) An applicant for an adult education designated subject credential for other than an academic subject.

(3) A person credentialed in another state who is an applicant for employment in a school district in this state who has passed a basic skills proficiency examination administered by the state where the person is credentialed.

(4) A person credentialed in another state who is an applicant for employment in a school district in this state who has passed a basic skills proficiency examination that has been developed and administered by the school district offering that person employment, by cooperating school districts, or by the appropriate county office of education. School districts administering a basic

1 skills proficiency examination under this paragraph shall comply
2 with the requirements of subdivision (h) of Section 44830. The
3 applicant shall be granted a nonrenewable credential, valid for not
4 longer than one year, pending fulfillment of the basic skills
5 proficiency requirement pursuant to Section 44252.5.

6 (5) An applicant for a child care center permit or a permit
7 authorizing service in a development center for the handicapped,
8 so long as the holder of the permit is not required to have a
9 baccalaureate degree.

10 (6) The holder of a credential, permit, or certificate to teach,
11 other than an emergency permit, who seeks an additional
12 authorization to teach.

13 (7) An applicant for a credential to provide service in the health
14 profession.

15 (8) An applicant who achieves scores on the writing, reading,
16 and mathematics sections of the College Board SAT Reasoning
17 Test, the enhanced ACT Test, or the California State University
18 Early Assessment Program that are sufficient to waive the English
19 placement test and the entry level mathematics examination
20 administered by the California State University.

21 (9) An applicant for an eminence credential to be issued pursuant
22 to Section 44262.

23 (c) (1) The Superintendent shall adopt an appropriate state test
24 to measure proficiency in these basic skills. In adopting the test,
25 the Superintendent shall seek assistance from the commission and
26 an advisory board. A majority of the members of the advisory
27 board shall be classroom teachers. The *advisory* board also shall
28 include representatives of school boards, school administrators,
29 parents, and postsecondary educational institutions.

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31 (2) *The* Superintendent shall adopt a normed test that the
32 Superintendent determines will sufficiently test basic skills for
33 purposes of this section.

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35 (3) *The* Superintendent, in conjunction with the commission
36 and approved teacher training institutions, shall take steps
37 necessary to ensure the effective implementation of this section.

38 (d) This section does not require the holders of, or applicants
39 for, a designated subjects special subjects credential to pass the
40 state basic skills proficiency test unless the requirements for the

1 specific credential required the possession of a baccalaureate
2 degree. The governing board of ~~each~~ a school district, or ~~each~~ the
3 governing board of a consortium of school districts, or ~~each~~ the
4 governing board involved in a joint powers agreement, which
5 employs a holder of a designated subjects special subjects
6 credential shall establish its own basic skills proficiency criteria
7 for the holders of these credentials and shall arrange for those
8 individuals to be assessed. The basic skills proficiency criteria
9 established by the governing board shall be at least equivalent to
10 the test required by the district, or in the case of a consortium or
11 a joint powers agreement, by any of the participating districts, for
12 graduation from high school. The governing board or boards may
13 charge a fee to individuals being tested to cover the costs of the
14 test, including the costs of developing, administering, and grading
15 the test.

16 (e) The commission shall compile data regarding the rate of
17 passing the state basic skills proficiency test by persons who have
18 been trained in various institutions of higher education. The data
19 shall be available to members of the public, including to persons
20 who intend to enroll in teacher education programs.

21 (f) (1) Each applicant to an approved credential program, unless
22 exempted by subdivision (b), shall take the state basic skills
23 proficiency test in order to provide both the prospective applicant
24 and the program with information regarding the proficiency level
25 of the applicant. Test results shall be forwarded to each California
26 postsecondary educational institution to which the applicant has
27 applied. The program shall use test results to ensure that, upon
28 admission, each applicant receives appropriate academic assistance
29 necessary to pass the state basic skills proficiency test. Persons
30 residing outside the state shall take the test no later than the second
31 available administration following their enrollment in a credential
32 program.

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34 (2) *It* is the intent of the Legislature that applicants for admission
35 to teacher preparation programs not be denied admission on the
36 basis of state basic skills proficiency test results.

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